



EARSDON
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORTS
OF
TAYLOR DIXON, M.B.B.S.,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,
AND
J. R. MACMILLEN,
INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

1907.

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1908.



EARSDON,

January, 1908.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE
Earsdon Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to forward you my Report for the Twelve Months ending December 31st, 1907.

POPULATION.

The population of the District, according to the census of 1901, was 9,020, and estimated to the middle of the year 1907 was 10,000.

AREA.

The total area of the District is 4,711 acres.

BIRTHS.

Three hundred and thirty-four births have been registered, a decrease of 43 upon that of last year, and gives a birth rate of 33·4 per thousand per annum.

In 1906 the birth rate was 38·7 per thousand per annum.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths, after deducting those of non-residents who have died in the District, is 156, which gives a death rate of 15·6 per thousand per annum.

In 1906 the death rate was 16·6 per thousand per annum.

The following Table shows the number of deaths of residents which have occurred in each Township during each quarter of the year, also ages in groups at which the deaths took place.

TOWNSHIPS.	First Qr.	Second Qr.	Third Qr.	Fourth Qr.	TOTAL.	Under 1 Year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up- wards.	DEATHS.
Earsdon ...	13	11	9	11	44	13	7	4	1	13	6	{ Under 5 Years 20 Over 5 Years 24
Backworth ...	8	5	7	10	30	4	4	1	3	8	10	{ Under 5 Years 8 Over 5 Years 22
Holywell ...	10	10	6	20	46	15	14	1	2	5	9	{ Under 5 Years 29 Over 5 Years 17
Murton ...	11	8	6	8	33	12	4	2	...	12	3	{ Under 5 Years 16 Over 5 Years 17
Whole District	42	34	28	49	153	44	29	8	6	38	28	153

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE.

There have been 23 deaths from Zymotic Disease, which gives a death rate of 2·3 per thousand per annum.

Of these deaths, 5 occurred in Earsdon Township.

„	„	4	„	Backworth	„
„	„	8	„	Holywell	„
„	„	6	„	Murton	„

Five were under one year, seventeen between one and five, and one between five and fifteen years of age.

PHTHISIS DEATH RATE.

There have been eight deaths from Phthisis during the year, which gives a death rate of ·8 per thousand per annum, a decrease of ·02 per thousand from that of last year.

Following are Tables of Statistics, and Table showing the causes of, and ages at which the deaths took place.

Table I.—EARSDON URBAN DISTRICT.—Vital Statistics of whole district during 1907 and previous years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITU- TIONS IN THE DISTRICT.	Deaths of Non- Residents registered in Public Institu- tions in the District. 10	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institu- tions beyond the District. 11	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		Number.	Rate *	At all Ages.		Number.	Rate.*					
				Under 1 Year of Age.	Rate per 1,000 Births Registered.						7	8
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1897	8210	199	32.31	41	206	100	16.24					
1898	8650	295	34.1	50	169	139	16.06					
1899	8834	286	32.37	70	244	155	17.54					
1900	9049	322	35.58	52	161	139	18.6					
1901	9020	356	39.46	67	188	178	19.73					
1902	9175	388	36.73	51	150	144	15.68					
1903	9275	374	40.32	75	200	167	18.0	1	1	1	167	18.0
1904	9400	373	39.57	76	203	177	18.82	1	...	...	177	18.82
1905	9530	342	35.88	62	181	159	16.68	1	1	4	162	16.99
1906	9730	377	38.74	56	148	165	16.93	3	1	3	162	16.6
Averages for years 1897-1906.	9087	331	36.5	60	185	152	17.42					
1907	10000	334	33.4	44	131.7	154	15.4	3	1	3.	156	15.6

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this Table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths to be included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10, and the addition of the number in Column 11.

By the term “Non-residents” is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there; and by the term “Residents” is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

The “Public Institutions” to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables are those into which persons are habitually received on account of sickness or infirmity, such as hospitals, workhouses, and lunatic asylums. A list of the Institutions in respect of the deaths in which corrections have been made should be given on the Table opposite.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) 4,711.
Total population at all ages, 9,020; number of inhabited houses, 1,824; average number of persons per house, 4.94 (at Census of 1901).

<p>I.</p> <p>Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District.</p>	<p>II.</p> <p>Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.</p>	<p>III.</p> <p>Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District.</p>
<p>Grange Hospital.</p>	<p>Tynemouth Workhouse.</p>	
	<p>Is the Union Workhouse within the District ?</p>	<p>No.</p>

Table II.—EARS DON URBAN DISTRICT.—Vital Statistics of separate localities in 1907, and previous years.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES.	EARS DON.				BACKWORTH.				HOLYWELL.				MURTON.			
	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year (D.)	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year (D.)	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year (D.)	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year (D.)
YEAR.																
1897	2010	51	26	11	2350	40	31	8	3112	102	36	15	738	6	7	7
1898	2358	116	40	15	2375	48	30	9	3167	112	57	23	758	19	12	3
1899	2425	98	68	30	2387	55	23	8	3222	106	50	24	800	27	14	8
1900	2550	117	48	20	2397	50	30	7	3252	109	46	19	850	46	15	6
1901	2898	130	60	27	2168	67	33	6	3085	122	62	20	869	37	23	14
1902	2926	125	43	15	2168	53	26	3	3111	120	48	24	970	40	27	9
1903	2976	142	69	34	2168	55	28	8	3163	107	43	23	995	70	27	10
1904	3032	143	48	25	2168	45	37	9	3200	132	54	24	1000	53	38	18
1905	3077	139	62	27	2178	48	20	6	3260	100	51	13	1015	55	29	16
1906	3150	137	65	23	2187	56	37	12	3373	123	34	12	1020	61	26	9
Averages of Yrs. } 1897 to 1906 }	2740	119	52	22	2254	51	29	7	3194	113	48	19	901	41	21	10
1907 ...	3320	121	44	13	2200	47	30	4	3440	107	46	15	1040	59	33	12

NOTES.—(A.) The separate localities adopted for this Table should be areas of which the populations are obtainable from the census returns, such as wards, parishes or groups of parishes, or registration sub-districts. Block 1 may, if desired, be used for the whole district; and blocks 2, 3, &c., for the several localities. In small districts without recognised divisions of known population this Table need not be filled up.

(B.) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions beyond the district are to be included in sub-columns (C.) of this Table, and those of non-residents registered in public institutions in the district excluded. (See note on Table 1. as to meaning of terms “resident” and “non-resident.”)

(C.) Deaths of residents occurring in public institutions, whether within or without the district, are to be allotted to the respective localities according to the addresses of the deceased.

(D.) Care should be taken that the gross totals of the several columns in this Table respectively equal the corresponding totals for the whole districts in Tables 1. and IV.; thus, the totals of sub-columns A, B, and C should agree with the figures for the year in the columns 2, 3, and 12 respectively of Table 1.; the gross total of the sub-columns C should agree with the total of column 2 in Table IV., and the gross total of sub-columns D with the total of column 3 in Table IV.

TABLE IV.—EARSJUN URBAN DISTRICT.—Causes of, and Ages at, Death during the year 1907.

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring in or beyond the District.							Deaths at all ages of "Residents" belonging to localities, whether occurring in or beyond the District.				Total deaths whether of "Residents" or "non-Residents" in Public Institutions in the District.
		All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.	Earsdon 9	Backworth. 10	Holywell. 11	Murton. 12	District. 13
		2	3	4	5	6	7	8					
Measles	...	13	1	12	...	...	...	...	2	3	6	2	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Whooping Cough	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	...	4	1	1	2	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	1
Fever	Typhus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Enteric	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Other continued	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhoea (see notes at back)	...	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
Enteritis (see notes at back)	...	5	2	1	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	3	...
Puerperal Fever (see notes at back)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other septic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	...	8	...	...	...	2	6	...	3	2	2	1	...
Other Tubercular diseases	...	7	...	4	2	...	1	...	2	4	4	1	...
Cancer, Malignant disease (see notes)	...	8	...	3	...	...	3	1	...	3	5	1	...
Bronchitis	...	9	2	3	...	...	1	...	...	2	3	...	...
Pneumonia	...	8	4	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other diseases of Respiratory organs	...	3	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	2	...	...	...
Alcoholism—Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Venereal diseases...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Premature birth	...	11	11	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	3	2	...
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Heart Diseases	...	14	...	...	1	...	8	5	4	2	6	2	...
Accidents	...	5	...	1	1	2	1	...	...	2	1	2	...
Suicides	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Apoplexy	...	7	...	...	...	...	4	3	1	1	2	3	...
Convulsions	...	5	4	1	...	...	...	...	2	1	2	...	...
Senile Decay	...	17	...	...	...	...	1	16	6	5	4	2	...
Marasmus	...	5	4	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	2	...
Debility from Birth	...	12	12	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	3	6	...
All other causes	...	5	...	...	1	1	3	...	3	...	1	1	...
All causes	...	153	44	29	8	6	38	28	44	30	46	33	3

See Notes on following page.

Notes to Tables IV. and V.

- (a) In Table IV., all deaths of "Residents" occurring in public institutions, whether within or without the district, are to be *included* with the other deaths in the columns for the several age groups (columns 2-8). They are also, in columns 9-15, to be *included* among the deaths in their respective "Localities" according to the previous addresses of the deceased as given by the Registrars. Deaths of "Non-residents" occurring in public institutions in the district are in like manner to be *excluded* from columns 2-8 and 9-15 of Table IV.
- (b) See notes on Table I. as to the meaning of "Residents" and "Non-residents," and as to the "Public Institutions" to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables. The "Localities" in Table IV., should be the same as those in Tables II. and III.
- (c) All deaths occurring in public institutions situated within the district, whether of "Residents" or of "Non-residents," are, in addition to being dealt with as in note (a), to be entered in the last column of Table IV. The total number in this column should equal the figures for the year in column 9, Table I.
- (d) The total deaths in the several "Localities" in columns 9-15 of Table IV. should equal those for the year in the same localities in Table II., sub-columns (c). The total deaths at all ages in column 2 of Table IV. should equal the gross total of columns 9-15, and the figures for the year in column 12 of Table I.
- *(e) Under the heading of "Diarrhœa" are to be included deaths registered as due to Epidemic Diarrhœa, Epidemic Enteritis, Infective Enteritis, Zymotic Enteritis, Summer Diarrhœa, Dysentery and Dysenteric Diarrhœa, Choleraic Diarrhœa, Cholera, Cholera Nostras.
 In addition, and as regards deaths of children *under one year of age*, under the heading "Diarrhœa," in column 3 (Table IV.) are to be included all deaths classified as "Diarrhœal Diseases" in Table V.
 Under the heading of "Enteritis" in Table IV., are to be included only deaths *over one year of age* registered as due to Enteritis, Mucro-enteritis, Gastro-enteritis, Gastric Catarrh, Gastritis, and Gastro-intestinal catarrh, unless from information obtained by enquiry from the certifying practitioner or otherwise, the Medical Officer of Health should have reason for including such deaths under the specific term "Diarrhœa." Deaths from Diarrhœa secondary to some other well-defined disease should be included under the latter.
- (f) Under the headings of "Cancer" and "Puerperal Fever" should be included all registered deaths from causes comprised within these general terms. Thus : Under "Cancer" should be included deaths from Cancer, Carcinoma, Malignant Disease, Scirrhous, Epithelioma, Sarcoma, Villous Tumour, and Papilloma of Bladder, Rodent Ulcer. Under "Puerperal Fever" are to be included deaths from Pyæmia, Septicæmia, Sapræmia, Pelvic Peritonitis, Peri- and Endo-Metritis occurring in the Puerperium.
- (g) Under "Congenital Defects" in Table V. are to be included deaths from Atelectasis, Icterus Neonatorum, Navel Hæmorrhage, Malformations, and Congenital Hydrocephalus.
- (h) Under "Tuberculous Meningitis" are to be included deaths from Acute Hydrocephalus.
- (i) Under "Other Tuberculous Diseases" are to be included deaths from Tuberculosis, Tuberculosis of Bones, Joints, and other Organs, Lupus and Scrofula.
- (j) All deaths certified by registered Medical Practitioners and all Inquest cases are to be classed as "Certified;" all other deaths are to be regarded as "Uncertified."

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables I., II., III., IV., and V., attention has been given to the notes on the Tables.

January 31st, 1908.

TAYLOR DIXON, Medical Officer of Health.

* As regards infantile diarrhœa and Table V., it will suffice if Medical Officers of Health, who have already tabulated Deaths of 1906 in accordance with the Schedule of the Incorporated Society of Medical Officers of Health, enter all deaths under one year that they regard as due to Diarrhœa under the single heading "Diarrhœa, all forms."

This having been done, it will be necessary that the entry against "Diarrhœa" in Column 3 of Table IV. should tally with the sum of deaths under "Diarrhœa, all forms," entered in the final column of Table V.

INFANT MORTALITY.

There have been 44 deaths of children under one year, which gives a mortality rate of 131·7 per 1000 births, a decrease of 16·8 from that of last year.

Of these deaths, 13 occurred in Earsdon Township, which gives a mortality rate of 107·4 per 1000 births; 4 occurred in Backworth Township, which gives a mortality rate of 85 per 1000 births; 15 occurred in Holywell Township, which gives a mortality rate of 140 per 1000 births; and 12 occurred in Murton Township, which gives a mortality rate of 203 per 1000 births.

It is gratifying to note the steady decrease in the infantile mortality, owing, no doubt, in a great measure to the good work of the District Nurses in spreading information amongst the younger mothers of the district, but there is still much room for improvement in this respect, seeing that more than half these deaths are from causes such as improper feeding, directly attributable to want of knowledge.

Table V.—EARS DON URBAN DISTRICT.—Infantile Mortality during the Year 1907.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

* See Notes at back of Table IV.

CAUSE OF DEATH.		Under 1 Week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks.	Total under 1 Month.	1-2 Months.	2-3 Months.	3-4 Months.	4-5 Months.	5-6 Months.	6-7 Months.	7-8 Months.	8-9 Months.	9-10 Months.	10-11 Months.	11-12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year.
All Causes	Certified ...	15	1	4	2	22	6	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	..	4	1	44
	Uncertified ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Common Infectious Diseases—</i>																		
Small-pox	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Shicken-pox	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Measles	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Diphtheria—Croup	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Whooping Cough	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
<i>*Diarrhœal Diseases—</i>																		
Diarrhœa, all forms	...	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Enteritis, Muc- & Gastro-enteritis	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
Gastritis, Gastro-intestinal Catarrh	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Wasting Diseases—</i>																		
Premature Birth	...	8	..	1	1	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
*Congenital Defects	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Injury at Birth	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Want of Breast Milk, Starvation	...	..	1	2	1	11	4	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	18
Atrophy, Debility, Marasmus	...	7	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Syphilis	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Convulsions	...	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
Bronchitis	...	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	2	..	2
Pneumonia	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Suffocation, overlaying	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other causes	...	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals.	...	15	1	4	2	22	6	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	..	4	1	44

District (or sub-division) of Earsdon. Population (estimated to middle of 1907) 10,000. Births in the year : Legitimate, 323 ; Illegitimate, 11. Deaths in the year : Legitimate, 3. Deaths from all causes at all ages, 44.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES,

There have been 79 cases of Infectious Diseases notified during the year, as against 40 last year.

The diseases notified were Scarlet Fever, Enteric Fever, Diphtheria, Anthrax, and Erysipelas, which have occurred at the places and in the months indicated below.

SCARLET FEVER.

Twenty-four cases have occurred during the year, an increase of 19 from last year, representing an attack rate of 2·5 per 1000, as against ·5 in 1906.

EARSDON TOWNSHIP.—Eight cases; 1 in January, 1 in February, 2 in April, 2 in June, 1 in July, and 1 in October.

BACKWORTH TOWNSHIP.—Two cases; 1 in June, and 1 in August.

HOLYWELL TOWNSHIP.—Four cases; 2 in February, 1 in March, and 1 in September.

MURTON TOWNSHIP.—Ten cases; 3 in January, 3 in March, 2 in April, and 2 in September.

This disease has again been of a mild type, and no fatal case has occurred. The use of the Hospital has been offered in each case, but it has not been taken advantage of.

ENTERIC FEVER.

There have been two cases of this disease, a decrease of 7 from last year.

EARSDON TOWNSHIP.—One case in May.

BACKWORTH TOWNSHIP.—No case.

HOLYWELL TOWNSHIP.—No case.

MURTON TOWNSHIP.—One case in July.

I could not in either of these cases trace where the disease had been contracted.

The case from Earsdon Township was removed to the Hospital.

ERYSIPELAS.

There have been 25 cases of Erysipelas, 6 being from Earsdon Township, 6 from Backworth Township, 10 from Holywell Township, and 3 from Murton Township.

As stated in my last report, the number of patients notified as suffering from this disease is abnormal.

ANTHRAX.

A case of Anthrax occurred at Seaton Terrace, Holywell, and proved fatal.

This man, a butcher, contracted the disease after dressing the carcase of a bullock. He was removed to the Newcastle Infirmary, and died there.

DIPHTHERIA.

There have been 27 cases of Diphtheria.

EARSDON TOWNSHIP.—Eighteen cases, 1 in July, 1 in August, 1 in September, 11 in November, and 4 in December.

BACKWORTH TOWNSHIP.—Three cases, 1 in January, 1 in March, and 1 in December.

HOLYWELL TOWNSHIP.—2 cases, 1 in February, and 1 in October.

MURTON TOWNSHIP.—Four cases in December.

As you are aware from my monthly reports, the most serious outbreak of this disease occurred in November, and spread with such rapidity as to cause alarm in the district. Everything possible was done to check the spread of the disease, but owing to the reluctance of the parents to allow their children to go to the Hospital after the fatal case from Earsdon, which occurred there in November, proper isolation was difficult, and the disease lingered on.

The Local Government Board asked for and has been supplied with particulars of the outbreak.

Table III.—EARS DON URBAN DISTRICT —Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1907.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.						**No. OF CASES REMOVED TO HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY.									
	At all Ages.	At Ages †—Years.					Earsdon.	Backworth.	Holywell.	Morton.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8				
		Under 1	1 to 5.																5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.	65 and upwards.
Small-pox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria (Membranous Croup)..	27	..	7	19	1	..	..	18	3	2	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Erysipelas	25	1	1	5	5	13	..	6	6	10	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever	24	..	10	14	..	..	..	8	2	4	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Typhus Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric Fever	2	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Relapsing Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Anthrax	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals...	79	1	18	39	6	15	..	33	11	17	18	..	..	..	..	..	..	15

NOTES.— The localities adopted for this Table should be the same as those in Tables II. and IV.

State in space below the name of the Isolation Hospital, if any, to which residents in the district, suffering from infectious disease, are usually sent. Mark (H) the locality in which it is situated, or if not within the district, state where it is situated, and in what district. The name of the authority by whom the hospital is provided should also be given. Mark (W) the locality in which a workhouse is situated.

* This space may be used for record of other disease the notification (compulsory or voluntary) of which is in force in the district.

+ These age columns for notification should be filled up in all cases where the Medical Officer of Health, by inquiry or otherwise, has obtained the necessary information.

** Column 8 should be filled up with the Totals of cases removed to Hospital, whether the District is divided into separate localities, or consists of only one undivided area.

Isolation Hospitals—Grange Hospital, Earsdon Township. Scaffold Hill Hospital for Small-pox, Benton Township. Earsdon Joint Hospital Board.

WATER SUPPLY.

Your district has had during the year a constant supply of water of good quality and comparatively free from risk of pollution, from the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company.

With the exception of the Earsdon Grange Farm, the whole of your district has now a proper water supply.

I must again point out, that although pipes have been laid through Holywell Village, thus bringing our general supply within the reach of all, some of the inhabitants are not supplied with it, and are obliged to use the water from the village well, although I have repeatedly pointed out what ought by this time to be obvious to all—the dangerous risk of pollution from such a source.

The total consumption for all purposes has been 32,175,000 gallons, an increase of 1,188,000 gallons on that of last year.

The consumption for domestic purposes has been 25,451,000 gallons.

The average consumption has been 7·1 gallons per head per day, as against 6·8 gallons last year.

LIGHTING.

The main roads in Murton Township are lighted by gas, and in the other Townships by electricity. Most of the houses are supplied with gas by the Tynemouth Gas Company.

SCAVENGING.

The disposal of the refuse is still done by dividing the district into fourteen sections that are let to the various contractors by tender, who must empty the ashpits at

least once in four weeks, or more frequently if necessary. This system answers fairly well, and has been regularly done.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders came into force on 1st January, 1907.

I have, in company with your Sanitary Inspector, visited the Dairies and Cowsheds, which we found in good order.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

These I have inspected. They are kept in good order, but I think suitable bye-laws should be issued for their control.

SEWERAGE.

I am pleased to report that the new sewer to the sea, so ably planned by your Surveyor, is now completed, and the whole of the sewage which formerly ran to the old sewage farm is now discharged directly into the North Sea.

A new sewer is being laid to the main at Clark's House, to carry off the sewage from the East Holywell part of the district.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

FACTORIES.--Four.

WORKSHOPS ON REGISTER.—Nine.

I have, with your Sanitary Inspector, visited the above from time to time, and found no defects, the whole being in very good order.

INSPECTION.—Factories, 16; Workshops, 36; total, 52.
Written Notices—None.

DEFECTS FOUND.—None. See General Report.

UNDERGROUND BAKEHOUSES.—None.

WORKSHOPS ON THE REGISTER AT THE END OF THE YEAR.—
Blacksmiths' Shops, 3; Joiners' Shops, 2; Seamstress'
Shops, 4; total, 9.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

TAYLOR DIXON.



**To the Chairman and Members of the Earsdon
Urban District Council.**

GENTLEMEN.

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1907.

NEW BUILDINGS.

During the year plans have been presented and approved for 41 houses. In connection with the houses erected earth closets have been built which is a great improvement on the old style of ashpit, also it necessitates the contents being oftener cleaned out.

In several parts of the district back kitchens have been built by the colliery companies.

PRIVATE STREET WORKS ACT.

This act having been adopted, plans have been prepared, and the contract let, to make good the street at Hartburn Terrace, Holywell.

It is the intention of the Council to have all streets made good, to their entire satisfaction.

It has been decided to put into proper repair the road leading from Earsdon to East Holywell, and a commencement has been made with the work.

Owing to the Gas Company coming into the district with their gas mains, your Council decided not to do any ashphalting of footpaths this year.

SEWERAGE.

The 18-inch main sewer with sea outfall is practically finished, and the sewage is now taken to tidal waters of the North Sea. This will prevent the pollution of Brier Dene Burn as far as this District is concerned.

A start has been made with the 12-inch sewer from Clark's House to East Holywell, and about 1,000 yards laid. When the work is completed it will allow the greater part of the sewage of your district to be taken to tidal waters.

The sewer at Garden Terrace has been extended, with proper manholes.

A new sewer has been laid at Charles Avenue, Shiremoor, for the new houses in course of erection.

Three ventilating shafts have been erected at Bates' Cottages and East Holywell.

The Earsdon Sewage Ground was given up in November.

WATER SUPPLY.

Your District is supplied with water by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company.

Forty-nine new services have been laid during the year.

The water mains have been extended at Earsdon and Shiremoor.

The inhabitants of Holywell Village still have to carry their water from the well, although your main is laid through the village. This well is liable to pollution.

The consumption of water for domestic supply in the different Townships have been as follows:—

TOWNSHIP.	Estimated Population.	Gallons.	Average Consumption per head per day.
Earsdon ...	3,150 ...	10,770,000 ...	9·5 galls.
Holywell ...	3,373 ...	6,801,000 ...	5·7 „
Backworth	2,187 ...	4,819,000 ...	6·1 „
Murton ...	1,020 ...	3,071,000 ...	8·6 „
TOTAL ...		25,461,000	gallons.

The average consumption for the whole district has been 7·1 gallons per head per day.

The total consumption of water for all purposes in the district has been 32,175,000 gallons, as against 30,987,000 gallons last year.

The extra consumption of water is partly accounted for by baths and water closets being put in the newly erected houses.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

During the year a large number of nuisances have again been dealt with, and abated by writing to the persons concerned.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are now seven premises used by the butchers of your district for slaughtering purposes, one extra having been built at Shiremoor.

These I have inspected from time to time with your Medical Officer, and they are kept in good condition. Bye-laws ought to be framed for the control of these premises.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

These I have inspected periodically along with your Medical Officer, and instructed the occupiers as to white-washing, cleansing, etc., to comply with your Bye-laws which have been framed and came into force on the 1st of January, 1907.

One new cowshed has been erected in the district according to your Bye-laws.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

All cases of infectious disease reported are visited, and the surroundings inspected, and if willing the patient removed to the Hospital, and the house fumigated. Disinfectants are supplied gratis.

Owing to an outbreak of diphtheria, the New York, Earsdon, and the Catholic Schools were thoroughly fumigated, also the sewers were flushed with a strong solution of disinfectants.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS.

These are from time to time inspected. No notices have had to be served on the owners.

SCAVENGING.

The scavenging and disposal of refuse in the district is still carried out by contract, the contract being let for a term of three years. Owing to the new houses that are erected having small earth closets, the scavenging is done oftener. The work, except in one or two districts, has been fairly satisfactory.

The contract price being the same as last year, the cost per house per annum was:—

Earsdon Township.

No. of Houses.	Total Cost.			Per House per annum.		
	£	s.	d.		s.	d.
728 ...	244	10	0	... 6	8	$\frac{1}{2}$

Backworth Township.

377 ...	107	0	0	... 5	8	
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Holywell Township.

686 ...	179	12	0	... 5	2	$\frac{3}{4}$
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Murton Township.

211 ...	80	0	0	... 7	7	
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Total cost of scavenging for the district was £611 2s. 0d., which is a cost of 1s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per head of the population.

The cost last year was £611 2s. 0d., which was at the rate of 1s. 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per head of the population.

LIGHTING.

The main road in the districts of Earsdon, Backworth, Havelock Place, Earsdon Square, West Holywell, and East Holywell, are lighted by electricity. The power is supplied by the Backworth Coal Company, from the Blue Bell Colliery.

There are 150 16-c.p. lamps in this portion of your district, and 6,363 units have been used, at 6d. per unit, and has cost £159 1s. 6d., as against £191 2s. 0d. last year.

The main road from Seaton Terrace to Holywell Village is also lighted by electricity supplied by the Seaton Delaval Co-operative Society at the cost of 28s. per lamp per annum.

The roads of Murton and New York are lighted by 36 gas lamps, two extra lamps having been erected during the year. The gas is supplied by the Tynemouth Gas Company.

The districts of Murton, Earsdon, and Backworth are supplied with gas from the Tynemouth Gas Company. The supply has not been satisfactory owing to want of pressure. The Gas Company intend laying a larger main in the near future.

GENERAL.

As stated in my last report, there are still a large number of ash-pits uncovered, which ought to be done away with, and proper earth closets built.

There are still open channels as a means of drainage, which ought to be done away with, and proper drain and gully traps laid.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. R. MacMILLEN.

